

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT OFFICE**

**DECISION RATIONALE FOR THE  
ALSEA FALLS BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND FOOT  
BRIDGE INSTALLATION PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT No. OR080-01-01**

**Background**

The Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation Project is located in Benton County, Oregon – in the South Fork Alsea River watershed. The major objectives are to provide non-motorized recreation opportunities (hiking, biking, etc.) and create additional opportunities where consistent with other management objectives as identified in the *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (the RMP; see pp. 41).

I have reviewed the proposals and alternatives for the Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation Project and have considered information included in the project Environmental Assessment (EA).

**Public Involvement**

A description of the proposal was included in the Salem Bureau of Land Management *Project Update* which is mailed to more than 900 individuals and organizations four times each year. A letter asking for scoping input on the proposal was mailed on December 5, 2000 to fourteen individuals or organizations who have expressed an interest in management activities in the resource area as a whole or in this drainage. Letters were also sent to the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Confederated tribes of Siletz and Grande Ronde. Two letters were received on December 22, 2000 and the issues were considered in developing the EA. The letters are in the NEPA project file. The letters comments and the BLM responses are addressed in the consultation section in the EA (pp. 23 to 26).

The EA was mailed to approximately 10 agencies, individuals and organizations on May 31, 2001. A legal notice was placed in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* soliciting public input on the action from June 4, 2001 to July 5, 2001. One comment letter was received from Swanson-Superior Forest Products Inc. on July 3, 2001 and their comments were addressed in this Decision Rationale and in a letter sent to them on July 12, 2001.

## Decision Record

My decision is to implement the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) as described in the Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation Project Environmental Assessment with the following change in the design features:

The proposed staging area located on Swanson-Superior Forest Products Inc. land in Section 36, T. 14 S., R. 7 W. would not be implemented. Swanson Superior expressed concern about the potential increase in illegal activity on their land. A letter dated July 12, 2001 was sent to Swanson-Superior Forest Products Inc. to explain this change.

Based on site-specific analysis in the Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation EA, the supporting project record, management recommendations contained in the *South Fork Alsea Watershed Analysis* (October 1995), as well as the management direction contained in the RMP (*Salem District Resource Management Plan*), dated May, 1995, I have decided to implement Alternative 1 of the EA (EA pp. 5-8).

## Decision Rationale

I have reviewed the proposal and alternatives for the accomplishment of the Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation project. The affected environment, proposed action and potential environmental consequences of the trail construction and foot bridge installation and associated activities are described in the Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available for public review from May 30, 2001 to July 5, 2001.

Programmatic documents covering this proposal are the:

*Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M FSEIS, November 2000).

*Plan Maintenance Documentation: Decision to Delay the Effective date for Surveying 7 "Survey and Manage" and Protection Buffer Species* (March 8, 2000)

*Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (RMP, May, 1995).

*Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (ROD, April 1994)

*Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (SEIS, February 1994)

The proposed project conforms with and would follow the general management guidance outlined in the RMP and would meet the Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives as stated on pages 30 to 32 of the EA.

The decision to be made by the Marys Peak Field Manager is whether or not to prepare an environmental impact statement, and whether to approve the Alsea Falls Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation as proposed, not at all, or to some other extent.

## **Implementation**

Implementation of this decision may begin 30 calendar days after the publication of the public notice of this decision. A copy of the decision is available in the public area at the Salem District office. A notice will be placed in the *Corvallis Gazette-Times* notifying the public of the decision.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring for compliance with the EA will be conducted by Marys Peak Resource Area resource specialists during contract administration. Monitoring and evaluations will also be accomplished in compliance with Appendix J of the RMP following completion of the project to ensure that decisions and priorities conveyed by the plan are being implemented, that progress toward identified resource objectives is occurring, that mitigating measures and other management direction are effective in avoiding or reducing adverse environmental impacts.

## **Right to Appeal**

The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days from the date of publication of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) or 43 CFR 2804.1 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Board and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

## Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. **Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.**

Responsible Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brad Keller**

Acting Field Manager

Marys Peak Resource Area, Salem District

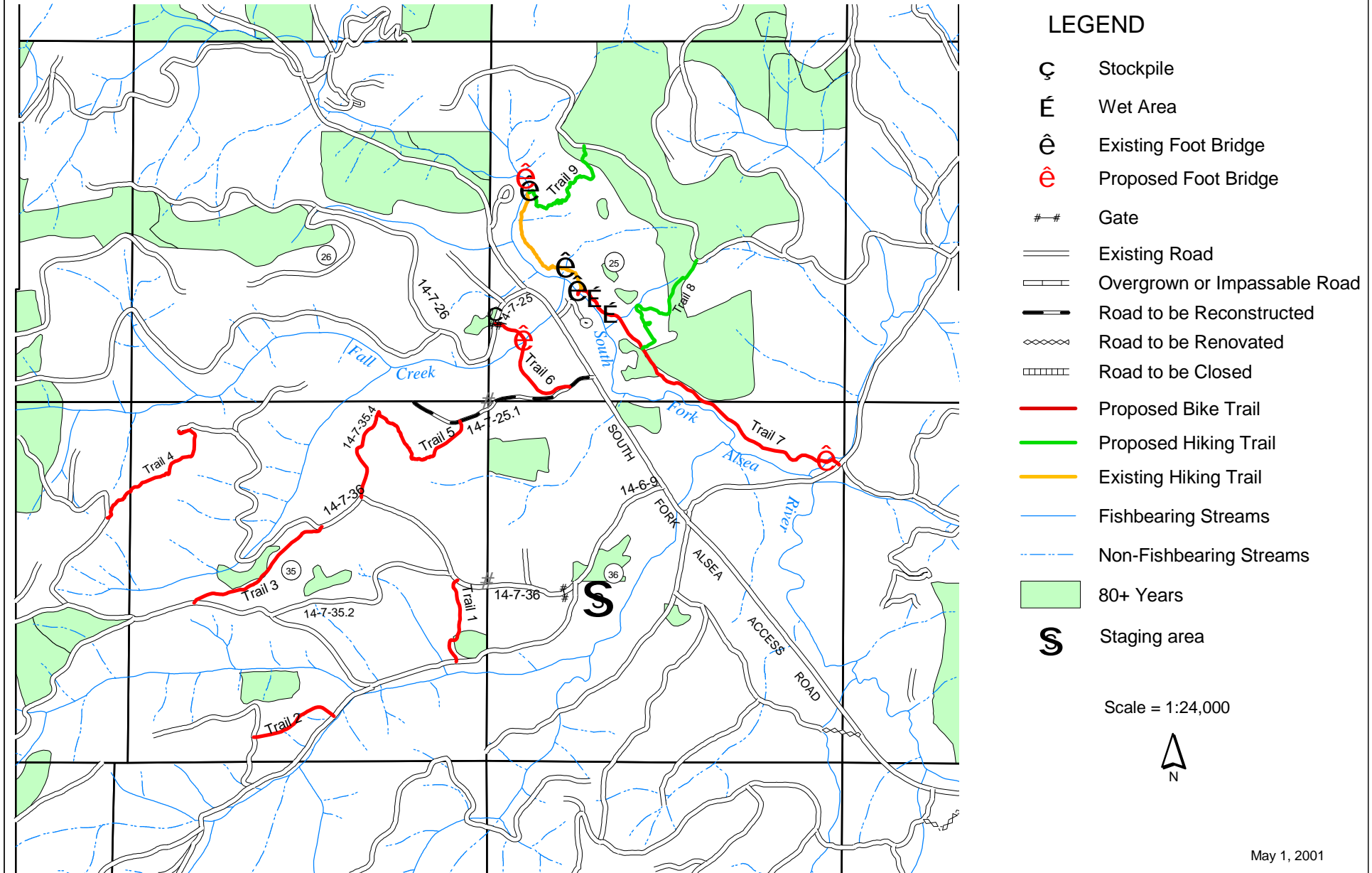
Bureau of Land Management

1717 Fabry Road SE

Salem, OR 97306

United States Department of the Interior - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
**ALSEA FALLS BIKE TRAIL AND FOOT BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MAP**

T. 14 S., R. 7 W., Sections 25, 34, 35, 36 W. M. - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON



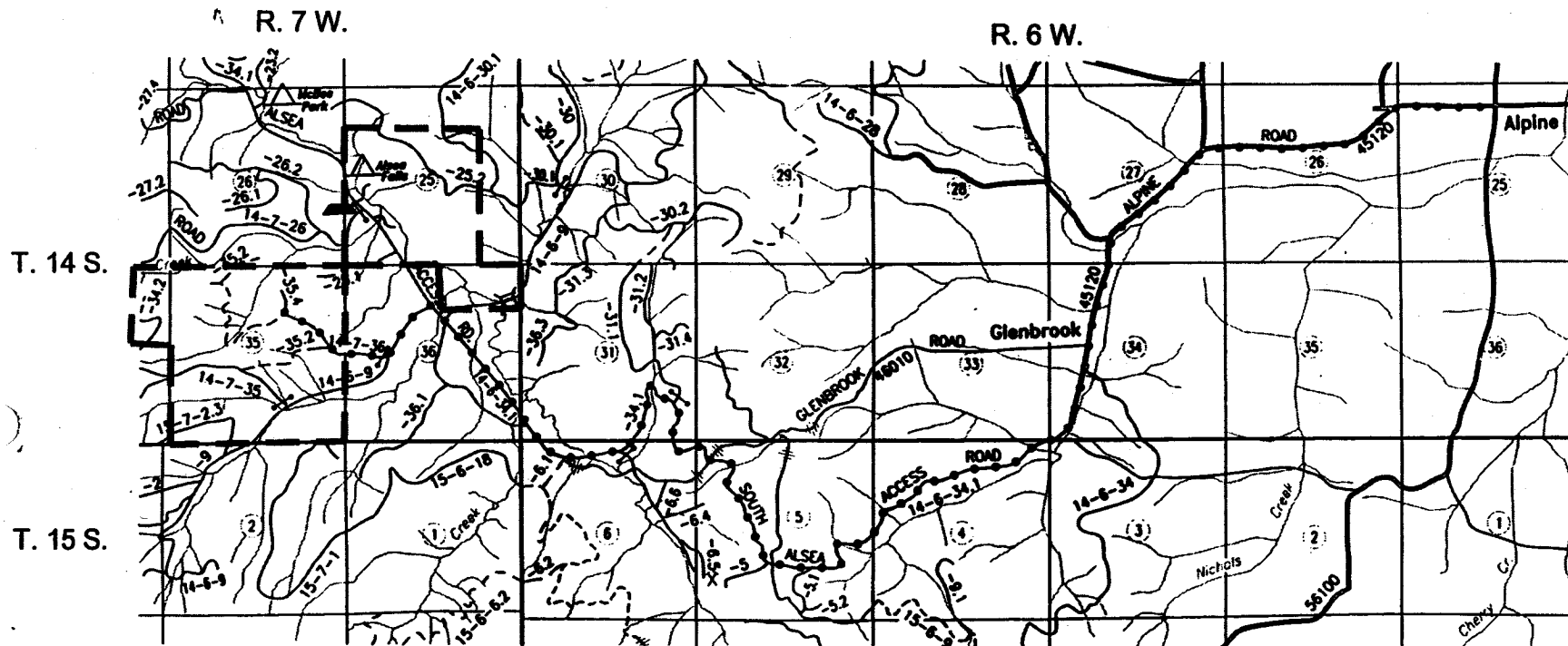
May 1, 2001

United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

T. 14 S., R. 7 W., Sections 25, 34, 35, and 36, W.M. - SALEM DISTRICT - OREGON

Alsea Falls Bike Trail Construction and Foot Bridge Installation  
Environmental Assessment  
Project Location Map

Scale: 1" = 1 mile



Project Location



Access Route